

Martha Washington Geraniums

(Regal Geraniums)

Martha Washington geraniums (*Pelargonium domesticum*) produce large, showy blooms in the Spring. These geraniums are the most difficult to grow and often won't bloom after the first display, especially if Summer nighttime temperatures exceed 60 degrees.

Light: Place the geranium in bright, indirect light. Avoid hot, direct sunlight, which will fade the petals. If you're growing these plants outdoors, place the plant where it will be exposed to bright morning sun, but protected from hot afternoon sun.

Temperatures: Regal geraniums like daytime temperatures of 65-70°F and nighttime temperatures shouldn't exceed 55°F.

Water: Water whenever the top of the soil feels slightly dry to the touch. Don't overwater, as they are susceptible to root rot, especially if temperatures are too warm. Water at the base of the plant, and try not to splash water on the foliage.

Fertilizing:

Feed every month during Spring and Summer, using a water-soluble houseplant fertilizer. If your Martha Washington geraniums are grown outdoors, feed them a water-soluble fertilizer for blooming plants. Fertilize every other month during Fall and Winter.

Over-wintering: Cut back to 4 to 5 inches above the soil in late Autumn. If the geranium is planted in ground, dig it up and put it in a container for Winter. Store the plant in a bright, cold room where the temperature won't fall below freezing. Remember to water occasionally to prevent the soil from becoming too dry. Resume normal treatment in February.

Repot: In early Spring when the plant displays strong growth. Remove the plant from its container and trim the roots, removing long roots or roots that are soft or brown. Transplant to a larger container and be sure the container has a drainage hole. If grown outdoors, replant it in the flower bed when danger of frost has passed.